

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following rewritten paragraph:

On the other hand, SiC powder as inorganic particles, an aluminosilicate fiber as an oxide fiber, an aqueous solution containing 40% by mass of ~~silica gel~~ silica sol as a colloidal oxide, clay, and foamed resin were mixed, followed by adding water. The resultant mixture was kneaded using a mixer for 30 minutes to obtain bonding materials A to C having compositions shown in Table 1. It is to be noted that in Table 1 ~~silica gel~~ silica sol means an aqueous solution containing 40% by mass of ~~silica gel~~ silica sol.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[Table 1]

Bonding materials No.	SiC powder [% by mass]	Aluminosilicate fiber [% by mass]	Silica gel <u>Silica sol</u> [% by mass]	Foamed resin [% by mass]	Clay [% by mass]	Water [% by mass]
A	41	25	23	0	1	10
B	40	24	23	1	1	10
C	45	26	10	0	1	18